

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John R. Lastova on 12/01/2011.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

15. (Currently amended) A midcom agent located in a control plane for controlling mobile user data packet flows over an IP-based user plane separate from the control plane, where each mobile user data packet flow is separate and different from session set up messages sent with IP layer control signaling and/or session layer control signaling, comprising electronic circuitry configured to: receive a middlebox registration message from each of multiple middleboxes in the IP-based user plane; register each middlebox for which a middlebox registration message is received; receive from each of the registered middleboxes the identities of one or more mobile user data packet flows being handled by each of the registered middleboxes in the IP-based user plane in response to the middleboxes receiving the one or more mobile user data packet; and

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signal a control order to each of the registered middleboxes for handling the mobile user data packet flows at each of the registered middleboxes.

20. (Currently amended) A middlebox for controlling mobile user data packet flows over an IP-based user plane, where each mobile user data packet flow is separate and different from session set up messages sent with IP layer control signaling and/or session layer control signaling, comprising electronic circuitry configured to:

receive a midcom agent announcement message, the midcom agent located in a control plane separate from the IP-based user plane in which the middlebox is located; send a middlebox registration message to the midcom agent;

In response to receiving one or more mobile user data packet flows, send a mobile user data packet flow registration message to the midcom agent for the one or more mobile packet user data flows being handled by the middlebox in the IP- based user plane; and

receive a control message from the midcom agent in the control plane for handling the one or more mobile user data packet flows in the IP-based user plane.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-20 are allowed.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ZEWDU BEYEN whose telephone number is (571)270-7157. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am-6:00pm, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy Vu can be reached on 571-272-3155. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Huy D Vu/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2461